

Parks & Recreation Advisory Board
Minutes
May 6, 2015

Board Attendance Record

William Dryburgh (116/127)
Katherine Ariens (37/41)
Maria Greenberg (52/57)
Paul Bigness (13/21)
John Hitzel (52/55)
Fred Pazona (36/45)

Present

Bill Dryburgh
Maria Greenberg
Katherine Ariens
John Hitzel
Fred Pazona
Paul Bigness

County Representatives

Tommy Scott, Director
Maureen Broderick, Recreation Manager
Monty Rodriguez, Foreman, Parks
Bonnie Blair, Administrative Assistant II

Guests

John Yancy

Call to Order

Chairman Bill Dryburgh called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m.

▪ **Chairman announced opportunity for public input on agenda items**

- John Yancy spoke about ongoing problems he has had with the boat dock at the Port Charlotte Beach Complex near his property.
- Tommy Scott gave history of this dock location which is not restricted to the public. A lengthy discussion ensued.
- Bill Dryburgh mentioned that we will research this topic.

▪ **Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes**

The March and April minutes were unanimously approved.

▪ **Division Reports**

- Fred Pazona – Masters swimming program? Tommy Scott stated it is not a county run program but will research it. Fred also asked about a Snowbird Classic survey; Monty Rodriguez generated a survey to coaches this year when the event was over and is compiling the results.
- John Hitzel – Harold Ave. gym floor (operational now after two instances of installer issues), soccer association concession stand, stated the Snowbird Classic is a remarkable program, exotic species control.
- Commissioner Doherty asked about the 419 grass for all the fields and how it was working. Monty Rodriguez reports that it recovered nicely.

▪ **New Business**

- Software Update – Tommy Scott
 - Switching out of CLASS software to a Cloud Based Solution (same company) “Active.net” Service Based Package – we are excited for this summer transition.
- Englewood Beach Parking – Bill Dryburgh
 - Bill asked about the development of a shuttle to help with parking at the beach.

Tommy Scott replied that we are a product of our own success. Tourism was great this year. High tourism along with two morning yoga groups with a huge following is creating a challenge for parking at the beach. The morning yoga class fills the parking lot early. Currently looking at property off the key, across from McDonalds at Beach Road.

- Paul Bigness wants to keep the area as it is to balance quality of life for the people who live here ... which is good for the citizens of Charlotte County.
 - Fred Pazona suggested a temporary tax for snowbirds during season.
 - Katherine Ariens mentioned that it changes the demographics when too many people come here ... there is the fine line. We are on top of this problem and interested in the public's concerns.
 - Commissioner Doherty stated that we are working on this right now, goals for focus areas; quality of life is huge, need to fund capital improvements for the next 20 years. \$600 million will be needed for infrastructure. How do we maintain the tax base to cover these expansions – we are working on it and user fees may be part of the solution. For the beach, it is going to have to be some sort of shuttle deal.
 - Bill Dryburgh mentioned that we do need the people. 90% of rentals are reserved for next year already.
 - Paul Bigness feels we need to work smarter.
- Member attendance at Board Meetings
 - Tommy Scott stated that regarding the attendance of Lou Agosto, a letter will be sent to the Commission office asking for his resignation and a replacement.
 - A map with boundaries of District 5 will be sent out to members to familiarize themselves with the district, which might help to identify qualified applicants to fill this District V position.

▪ **Old Business**

▪ **Sports Council Update**

- Maria Greenberg attended the last meeting and reported business as usual. Mike Norton has had a change of his position and is no longer at Harold Avenue.
- Fred Pazona asked what exactly is the Youth Sports Council; Maria explained.
- Monty Rodriguez suggested that the committee is building relationships with other groups in the county who have similar issues and can work them out together.

▪ **Member Issues**

- John Hitzel asked for a follow-up on Mr. Yancy's concerns.
- Katherine Ariens feels that it is mostly the noise disturbance that bothers him.
- Tommy Scott mentioned we are active with the sheriff's department on this ongoing issue.
- Commissioner Doherty mentioned that there is a detailed summary of the history of Mr. Yancy's complaint ... Tommy Scott will get the members a copy.
- Katherine Ariens said regarding the Chadwick Park mooring field issue – the Beaches & Shores Advisory Committee feels differently than we do on this issue. Katherine wants to know who would be responsible for the maintenance of a mooring field facility. A comment at a joint meeting precipitated this question. Tommy Scott said that direction from Administration has not been given to this department regarding a mooring field at this location.

▪ **Director's Report – Tommy Scott**

- **Announcement about Andy Stevens**
 - Expressions of sympathy by members on the passing of this valuable former staff member, who worked as the Parks & Natural Resources Manager.
- **Update on Parks Master Plan**
 - Steering Committee has met for the last time with public meetings being scheduled for May 19, 20 and 21st, 2015 from 6-8pm.
 - A Youth Teen Parks & Recreation Advisory Committee is being put together. In listening to the teens concerns Tommy noted that some of the requests by the youth we found we are already doing.

▪ **Announcements**

- None

Meeting Adjourned

Meeting adjourned at 2:50 p.m.

CC: Commissioner Ken Doherty, District 1
Commissioner Chris Constance, District 2
Commissioner Bill Truex, District 3
Commissioner Stephen Deutsch, District 4
Commissioner Tricia Duffy, District 5
Raymond Sandroock, Administrator
Kelly Shoemaker, Deputy County Administrator